We claim:

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1. A computer implemented method for procuring services, comprising:

establishing a private marketplace with access restricted to a predetermined set of buyers and a pre-identified set of vendors;

inviting bids on a project from a subset of the vendors;

receiving at least one bid on the project from at least one of the subset of vendors;

accepting one of the bids; and

working on the project with the vendor in a collaborative workspace.

2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the private marketplace is an online marketplace and establishing the private marketplace further comprises customizing the look and feel of the online marketplace.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the establishing of the private marketplace further comprises managing the pre-identified set of vendors.

4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the establishing of the private marketplace further comprises restricting the access of the users to one or more projects within the private marketplace.

5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving invoices from the vendors for services provided by the vendors to the buyers, the invoices received at a centralized location;

consolidating at the centralized location the invoices received for the predetermined set of buyers;

sending a bill from the centralized location to an owner of the private marketplace;

receiving money at the centralized location from the owner of the private marketplace; and

distributing the money to the vendors.

1   6. The computer implemented method of claim 5, further comprising obtaining project
2   approval before one or more stages in the procurement of services.

1   7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring the
2   private marketplace.

1   8. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the private
2   marketplace further comprises receiving requested reports.

1   9. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the private
2   marketplace further comprises receiving planning reports.

1   10. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the private
2   marketplace further comprises receiving performance measurement reports.

1   11. A computer program product for procuring services, the computer program product
2   comprising:
3   program code for establishing a private marketplace with access restricted to a
            predetermined set of buyers and a pre-identified set of vendors;
4   program code for inviting bids on a project from a subset of the vendors;
5   program code for receiving at least one bid on the project from at least one of the
7   subset of vendors;
8   program code for accepting one of the bids; and
9   program code for working on the project with the vendor in a collaborative
10   workspace.

1   12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the private marketplace is an
2   online marketplace and the program code for establishing the private marketplace further
3   comprises program code for customizing the look and feel of the online marketplace.

1   13.   The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the program code for

2   establishing of the private marketplace further comprises program code for managing the pre-

3   identified set of vendors.

1   14.   The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the program code for

2   establishing of the private marketplace further comprises program code for restricting the access

3   of the users to one or more projects within the private marketplace.

1   15. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:

2   program code for receiving invoices from the vendors for services provided by the

3   vendors to the buyers, the invoices received at a centralized location;

4   program code for consolidating at the centralized location the invoices received for

5   the predetermined set of buyers;

6   program code for sending a bill from the centralized location to an owner of the

7   private marketplace;

8   program code for receiving money at the centralized location from the owner of the

9   private marketplace; and

10   program code for distributing the money to the vendors.

1   16.   The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising program code for

2   obtaining project approval before one or more stages in the procurement of services.

1   17.   The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising program code for

2   monitoring the private marketplace.

1   18.   The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for

2   monitoring the private marketplace further comprises program code for receiving requested

3   reports.

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1   19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for

2 monitoring the private marketplace further comprises program code for receiving planning

3 reports.

1   20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for

2 monitoring the private marketplace further comprises program code for receiving performance

3 measurement reports.

1   21. A system for procuring services using a private marketplace, the system comprising:

2   a private marketplace owner;

3   at least one buyer, the buyer given access to the private marketplace by the private

4   marketplace owner;

5   at least one vendor, the vendor bidding on a project posted by a buyer, wherein the

6   buyer accepts the bid of the vendor and works on the project with the vendor

7   in a collaborative workspace.

1   22. The system of claim 21, wherein the private marketplace is an online marketplace

2 and wherein the private marketplace owner customizes the look and feel of the online

3 marketplace.

1   23. The system of claim 21, wherein establishing the private marketplace further

2 comprises managing the pre-identified set of vendors.

1   24. The system of claim 21, wherein establishing the private marketplace further

2 comprises restricting the access of the users to one or more projects within the private

3 marketplace.

1   25. The system of claim 21, further comprising a central server wherein the central

2 server receives invoices from the vendors for services provided by the vendors to the buyers,

3 consolidates the invoices received for the buyers, sends a bill to the private marketplace owner,

4 receives money from the private marketplace owner, and distributes the money to the vendors.

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1   26. The system of claim 25, wherein the buyer obtains project approval before one or

2   more stages in the procurement of services.

1   27. The system of claim 21, wherein the private marketplace owner monitors the private

2   marketplace.

1   28. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring of the private marketplace further

2   comprises receiving requested reports.

1   29. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring of the private marketplace further

2   comprises receiving planning reports.

1   30. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring of the private marketplace further

2   comprises receiving performance measurement reports.